

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council May 14, 2021 Meeting - Minutes

Date/Time: May 14, 2021 10:00 AM
Location: Zoom: Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#)
Subcommittee Members Present: Abbie Corse, Billy Coster, Ryan Patch, Iris Hsiang, Alissa White, John Roberts, David Mears, Judy Dow, Lauren Oates, Charlie Hancock, Jake Claro
State Staff Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Ali Kosiba, Judson Peck, Alex DePillis

10:00 AM Greeting, Review, and Approval of the [Agenda](#) and [5/7/21](#) Minutes

- Agenda and minutes were approved

10:05 AM Climate Access/RISE Discussion (Sarika Tandon, Cara Pike, Meredith Herr)

- RISE (Race, Equity and Environment) consulting organization
- Help with public engagement process; meet with all subcommittees
- “Co-Creation” collaborate approach, multiple pathways for communication/sharing
- Jun-Nov 2021 – engagement plan development, identify targeted audiences
- Dec 21-Feb 22 – share draft plan with public
- March 2022 – final plan rollout, press, partner support
- Identified target audiences/stakeholders – questions to the group (list will be compiled and shared later)
- **“What stakeholders need to be involved in your subcommittee work and what do you hope to gain from that engagement?”**
- Stakeholders suggested (no particular order) – technical advisors/scientific expertise, those most impacted, those that may be negatively impacted, land managers (farmers and foresters), migrant farm workers, people that run existing programs, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) users, rural communities, current adopters of strategies, hunters, food system/security organizations/participants, community watershed groups, regulators, implementation partner organizations, conservation districts, federal partners, real-estate developers, universities and students, private companies (e.g. Ben & Jerry’s), legislators, regional planning commissions, regional development corporations, public health
- Challenge of engaging farmers/foresters/rural communities was raised – may need to go to them; ensure cover entire geography state of Vermont
- **“What sectors/groups/communities need to be engaged in the Climate Action Plan development process and implementation and why?”**
- **“Who should be interviewing or inviting to an online roundtable to help inform the creation of the public engagement plan?”**
- Specific names of leaders, organizations requested... homework for group

- Concerns on timeframe and focus of “initial” CAP that focuses on 2025 emission reduction targets (shorter-term planning) that may impact (positively/negatively) longer-time strategies, e.g. citing of renewable energy
- 11:10 AM Public Comment #1
- Public comments were received by Jennifer Ramstetter, Zack Porter, Graham Unangst-Rufenacht, and can be viewed in the video recording
- 11:20 AM Update from 5/10/2021 VCC Steering Committee Meeting – Jane Lazorchak
- Identified areas of overlap among subcommittees
 - Timeline review for CAP
- 11:22 AM Brief Report-Outs from Task Leads/Just Transition Liaison
- Subtask 5B (Billy Coster)
 - Subtask 5C (Ryan Patch)
 - Subtask 5D (Lauren Oates)
 - Subtask 5E (Abbie Corse)
 - Just Transitions (Iris Hsiang)
 - Suggestion to consider how to reconvene to share subtask work with larger group in future
- 11:30 AM Big Idea Brainstorm/Unstructured Group Chat
- How and when to include equity considerations – always
 - Concern of prioritizing shorter-term technological solutions over other longer-term conservation/resilience/adaptation solutions
 - Demographic and land-transfer between generations considerations
- 11:45 AM Set Assignments and Agenda for 5/21/2021 Meeting
- Recommendation to keep “unstructured/open discussion” on agendas
- 11:47 AM Public Comment #2
- Public comments were received by Zack Porter, Gordon Merrick, Graham Unangst-Rufenacht and can be viewed in the video recording
- 12:00 PM Meeting adjourned

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